CLAIMS

1. A method for producing hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids, comprising the steps according to which:

   - yeasts are cultured on a medium comprising at least one precursor of such hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids, and then

   - the hydroxylated and/or acetylated steroids are isolated from the medium after bioconversion,

   said method being characterized in that said yeasts are yeasts transformed so as to express the product of the *Cyp7b* gene.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, for producing a hydroxylated steroid, characterized in that said yeasts have low or zero APAT activity, and/or in that said yeasts are cultured under conditions which are oxidative.

3. The method as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that said precursor contains a 7 position which can be hydroxylated.

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said precursor is a 3-hydroxylated steroid, preferably a 3β-hydroxylated steroid, or a steroid which has a 3-keto function.

5. The method as claimed in claims 1 to 4, characterized in that said precursor is chosen from the steroids with a structure of the androstane, androstene, pregnane, pregnene, cholane, cholene,

cholesterol, ergostane, ergostene, testosterone or stigmastane type.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the precursor is chosen from the group consisting of DHEA, testosterone, pregnenolone, pregnanolone, 25-hydroxycholesterol, 5-α-androstane-3β,17β-diol and 5-α-androstene-3β,17β-diol.

7. The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that the APAT activity of the yeast has been rendered low or zero by inactivation of the *atf2* gene or by using an atf2$^-$ mutant.

8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the yeast also carries dehydrogenase activity.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the dehydrogenase activity is a 17-dehydrogenase which produces a 17-hydroxylated derivative.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that the 17-dehydrogenase activity is carried by the *yil124w* gene.

11. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the 17-dehydrogenase activity of the yeast has been rendered low or zero, in particular by inactivation of the *yil124w* gene or use of a *yil124w*$^-$ mutant.

12. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the yeast is of the genus *Saccharomyces*.

13. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that the *Cyp7b* gene is under the control of a yeast promoter chosen from CYC1, TEF1 and TDH3.

14. A yeast strain having zero 17-dehydrogenase activity by inactivation of the *yil124w* gene.

15. A yeast strain transformed with a plasmid comprising an expression cassette expressing the *Cyp7b* gene.

16. The use of a steroid obtained using the method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 13, for preparing a medicinal product for the treatment of diseases of the central nervous system.